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13 October 1966 X

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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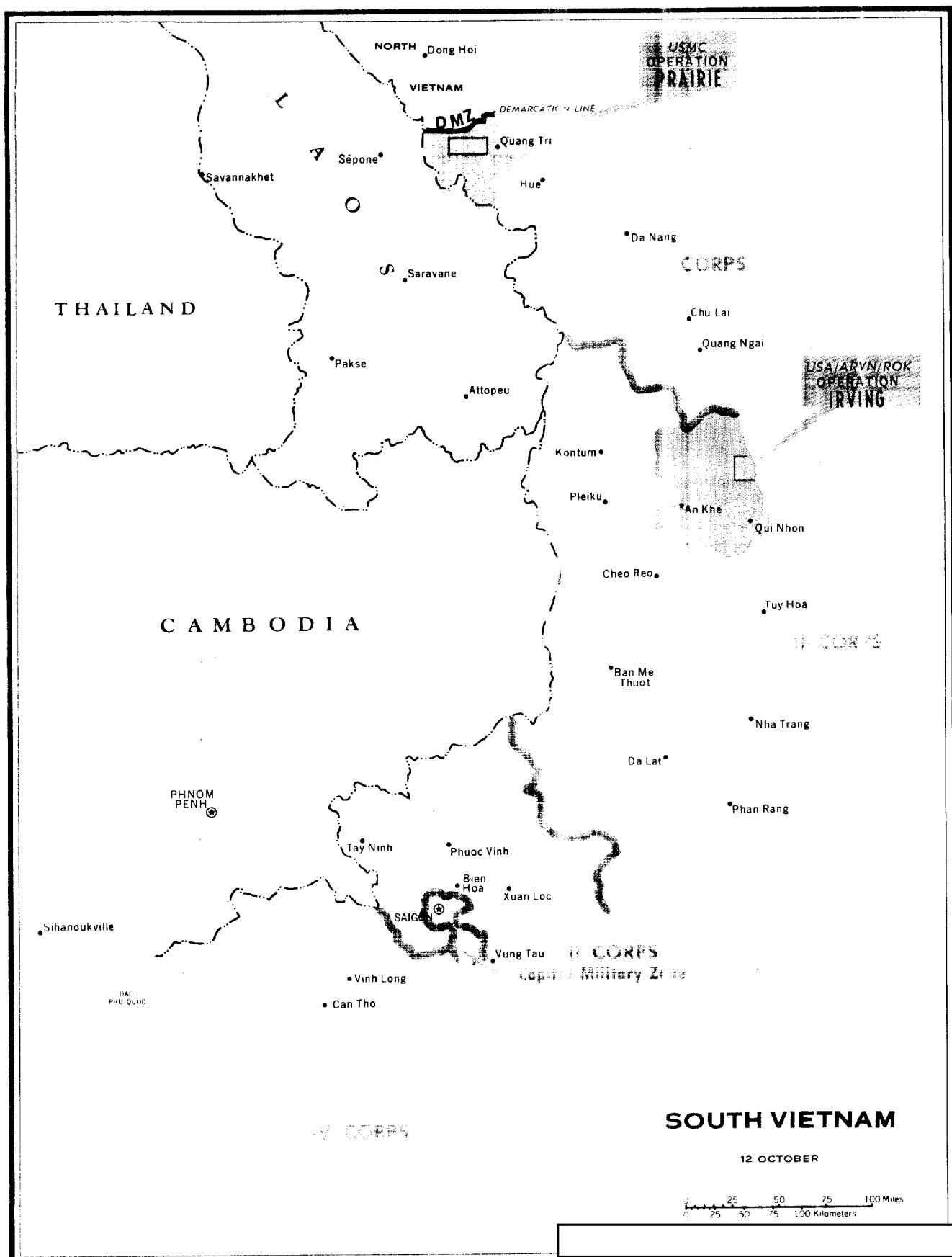
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

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Military Situation in South Vietnam: Contacts between allied and Communist forces in South Vietnam during the past 24 hours were light. In the two major allied efforts continuing in the northern and central part of the country; Operation PRAIRIE in Quang Tri Province, and Operation IRVING in Binh Dinh Province, only small-unit clashes have been reported. (Map)

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[the North Vietnamese leadership is not interested in negotiations on any terms except its own.]

(continued)

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[redacted] the population is prepared to endure prolonged hardship in support of this hard line and that the mood of the people is unchanged by US bombing efforts. There is less enthusiasm for the war than DRV propaganda would imply, but there is no evidence of dissension directed against the regime.

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[redacted] little progress has been made in the dispersal of industry or evacuation of people from the city of Hanoi. Trains continue to run from Hanoi both to the north and to the south, [redacted]

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[redacted] but most supplies in North Vietnam are moved by truck. [redacted] no evidence of POL shortages [redacted] 50-100-ton tanks were dispersed throughout Hanoi.

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[redacted]

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France - South Vietnam: France may let the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam establish an "information office" in Paris.

The French Foreign Ministry official directly responsible, Etienne Manac'h, told a US official that France would not permit the Viet Cong to be officially represented in Paris but he did not rule out the possibility that the Front would be allowed to open an information office. He argued that there were worldwide precedents for permitting information activities even though official recognition was lacking.

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Israel-Syria: Israel appears to be preparing to take strong military action against Syria, if it believes it necessary, to deter further terrorist incidents.

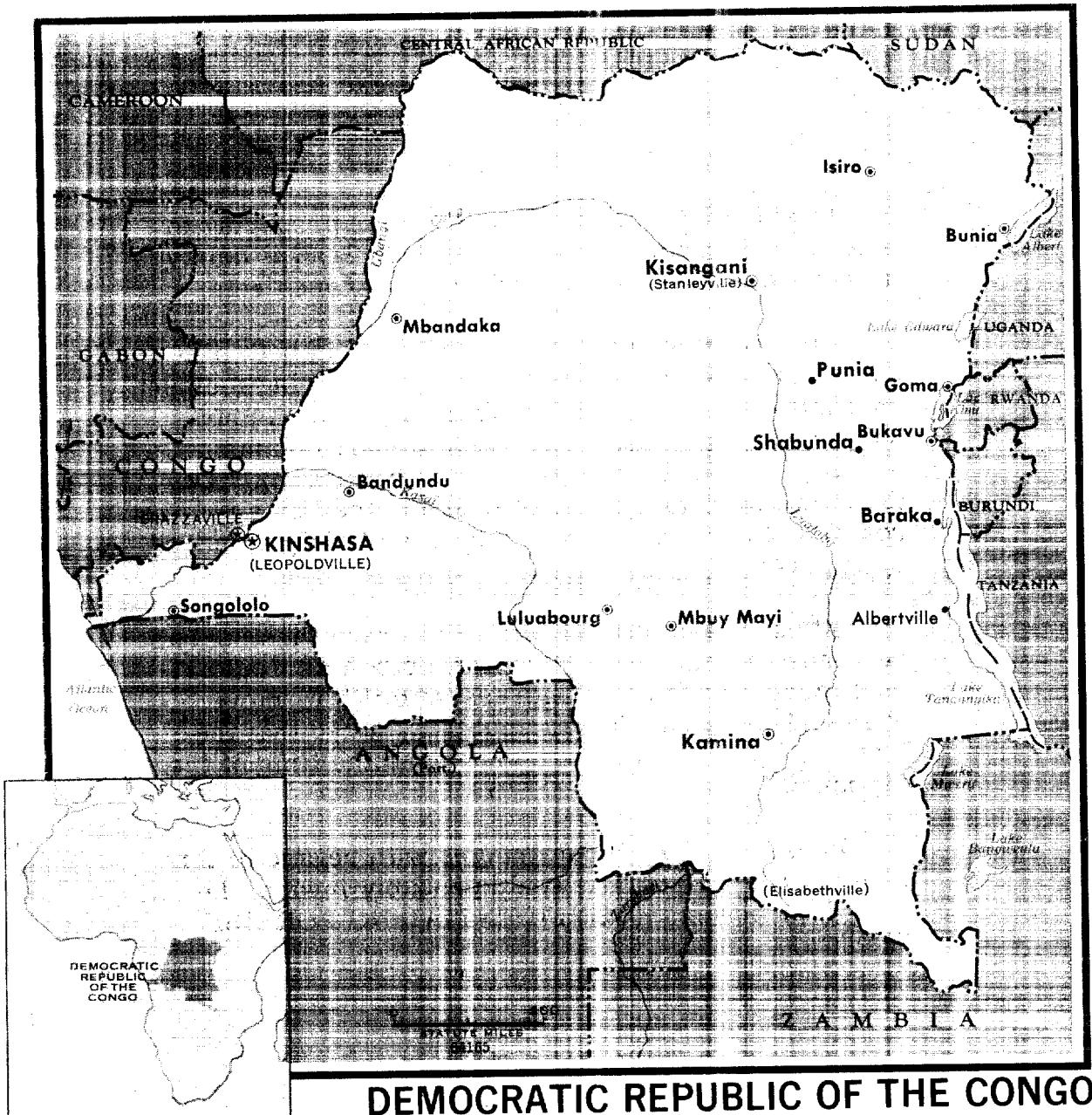
Feelings are running high in Israel in both official and public circles as a result of a mining incident on 8 October near the Syrian border in which four policemen were killed. The Israelis also blame Syrian-supported terrorists for an incident on 7 October in which an apartment house in the Israeli-controlled section of Jerusalem was slightly damaged by explosives.

Although the official Israeli reaction thus far has been restrained, any further terrorist acts would almost certainly draw an aggressive military move. Prime Minister Eshkol has publicly stated that the Israelis would decide the manner and the time of the response.

In view of Syria's advantages with regard to terrain, any Israeli strike would probably involve the use of air power.

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Congo (Kinshasa): President Mobutu evidently is in a confident mood after his recent victories over external and internal opponents and is ready to take on others.

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[redacted] Mobutu feels that he has won against the Belgians and the Portuguese and that he will have similar success against other Western powers. He has broken relations with Portugal and expects the UN Security Council to condemn alleged Portuguese assistance to Tshombist forces in Angola. Mobutu is holding in abeyance his order closing all consulates in the Congo.

A recent statement to the press implied that the US might soon be included among his targets. [redacted]

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[redacted] Mobutu implied to a parliamentary commission on 11 October that the US Embassy was working against him.

On the domestic front, the 2,300 Katangan mutineers in Punia slowly are being disarmed and returned home. The estimated 200 mutineers who refused to surrender and fled eastward last Friday have been cornered by mercenary forces north of Shabunda. Mobutu's position has also been enhanced by the surrender of some 1,500 former rebels at Baraka. [redacted]

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NOTES

Egypt: Nasir is curbing activities of Marxist extremists within the Arab Socialist Union (ASU), his state-controlled political organization. Four prominent leftist members of the ASU were detained last weekend for questioning and have been placed under house arrest. Members of the ASU youth organization have also been interrogated. By these steps Nasir is probably warning extreme leftist elements against exploiting the current climate of anti-Westernism to undertake independent action.

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Haiti: Discontentment in three coastal cities is again giving rise to coup rumors in Port-au-Prince. Ambassador Timmons believes that the presence of US naval forces in Haiti during the recent relief operations in the wake of Hurricane Inez encouraged the "ever-wishful thinking" of the perennial plotters. There have also been more frequent reports lately of restiveness among some Haitian Army officers. It is doubtful that the dissidents will move against Duvalier as long as a commitment of US support is denied them.

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